

AMENDING THE ACT ENTITLED "AN ACT FOR THE REGULATION OF THE PRACTICE OF DENTISTRY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE PEOPLE FROM EMPIRICISM IN RELATION THERETO," APPROVED JUNE 6, 1892, AS AMENDED

JUNE 30, 1959.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MORSE, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 4072]

The Committee on the District of Columbia to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 4072) to amend the act entitled "An act for the regulation of the practice of dentistry in the District of Columbia, and for the protection of the people from empiricism in relation thereto," approved June 6, 1892, as amended, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to permit the District of Columbia Board of Dental Examiners, in its discretion, to waive any theoretical examination of an applicant for a license to practice dentistry if the applicant has successfully passed an examination given by the National Board of Dental Examiners, provided that the applicant can successfully pass the practical examination which is administered by the District of Columbia Board of Dental Examiners.

The Commissioners of the District of Columbia recommended enactment of a companion measure, S. 647. A letter dated January 15, 1959, transmitting the draft legislation is set forth as follows:

JANUARY 15, 1958.

Hon. RICHARD M. NIXON,
The President, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: The Commissioners of the District of Columbia have the honor to submit herewith a draft of a bill to amend the act for the regulation of the practice of dentistry in the District of Columbia, and for the protection of the people from empiricism in relation thereto, approved June 6, 1892, as amended.

Existing law requires that the District of Columbia Board of Dental Examiners give an applicant for license to practice dentistry in the

District of Columbia both a practical and a theoretical examination. The Board has determined that the theoretical examinations given by the National Board of Dental Examiners are at least as comprehensive and as exhaustive as those given by the District of Columbia Board of Dental Examiners. The National Board of Dental Examiners is composed of the 9 members of the council of the National Board of Dental Examiners together with 20 additional persons who come from all parts of the United States and who act as consultants on the preparation of the national board questions. The council was established by the American Dental Association in 1928 and is a standing committee of such association. Of its nine members, three represent the American Dental Association, three represent the American Association of Dental Examiners, and three represent the American Association for Dental Schools. Thirty-one States, Hawaii, the U.S. Army, Navy, and Public Health Service accept the national board certificate and grades.

The Commissioners recommend the amendment of section 8 of the act of June 6, 1892, as amended, so as to permit the District Board of Dental Examiners, in its discretion, to waive any theoretical examination of an applicant who holds a certificate from the National Board of Dental Examiners, providing such person can successfully pass the practical examination administered by the District Board of Dental Examiners.

As has been noted above, the theoretical examination conducted by the national board is expected to be at least as comprehensive and as exhaustive as the theoretical examination conducted by the District board. However, since this may not always be the case, the bill requires that the District board, in exercising its discretion in waiving the theoretical examination, satisfy itself that the examination given the applicant was at least as comprehensive as that required in the District of Columbia.

The acceptance of a theoretical examination conducted by the National Board of Dental Examiners will benefit the District as well as the applicant. The national board examinations, by reason of their national character, have a tendency to provide a uniform and consistent measure of the qualifications of persons seeking licensure. The composition of the examination tends to reflect the teaching of the theory of dentistry on a nationwide basis. The resources in personnel and equipment available to the council of the National Board of Dental Examiners makes possible the rapid evaluation and dissemination of the results of the examinations. The expense of printing the examinations, furnishing materials, securing administrators and proctors, and payment of shipping charges and all other costs involved in the testing program are sustained by the national board.

The Commissioners are informed that the District of Columbia Board of Dental Examiners will have complete freedom in connection with interpreting the National Board grades, and that there is no objection to the District Board's supplementing the National Board's examinations with any other examination deemed necessary to fulfill District requirements.

Section 2 of the bill is intended to coordinate the proposed amendment of the act of June 6, 1892, as amended, with the requirements of Reorganization Plan No. 5 of 1952, relating to reorganization of the government of the District of Columbia.

The Commissioners anticipate no increased cost to the District as a result of the enactment of the bill.

Yours very sincerely,

ROBERT E. McLAUGHLIN,
President, Board of Commissioners, District of Columbia.

Hearings were conducted on the bill and no witnesses appeared in opposition. The District of Columbia Dental Society by letter to the committee urged approval of the bill. A witness representing the Board of Dental Examiners of the District of Columbia likewise advocated passage.

The committee was informed that this type of examination procedure as provided in the bill is now followed in 44 States.

The Commissioners, as expressed in their letter previously quoted, anticipate no increased cost to the District if the bill were to be enacted.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection (4) of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law in the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in *italic*, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in *roman*):

(54 STAT. 717, SECTION 8—2-308 D.C. CODE)

An applicant for a license to practice dentistry shall appear before the Board at its first meeting after the filing of his application, and pass a satisfactory examination, consisting of practical demonstrations and written or oral test, or both, in the following subjects: Anatomy, anesthetics, bacteriology, chemistry, histology, operative dentistry, oral surgery, orthodontia, pathology, physiology, prosthetic dentistry, materia medica, metallurgy, and therapeutics, and such other subjects as the Board may from time to time direct: *Provided*, That the Board may waive the theoretical examination in the case of an applicant who furnishes proof satisfactory to said Board that he is a graduate from a reputable dental college of a state or territory of the United States, approved by the Board, and holds a license from a similar dental board, with requirements equal to those of the District of Columbia, and who, for five consecutive years next prior to filing his application, has been in the lawful and reputable practice of dentistry in the state or territory of the United States from which he applies: *Provided*, That the laws of such state or territory accord equal rights to a dentist of the District of Columbia holding a license from the board of the District of Columbia, who desires to practice his profession in such state or territory of the United States. An applicant desiring to register in the District of Columbia under this section must furnish the Board with a letter from the secretary of the Board of Dental Examiners, under seal of the Board of Dental Examiners of the state or territory of the United States from which he applies, which shall state that he has been in the lawful and reputable practice of dentistry in the state or territory from which he applies for the five years next prior to filing his application, and shall also attest to his moral character and professional qualifications. *The Board of Dental Examiners may,*

in its discretion, waive the theoretical examination and issue a license to any applicant who holds a certificate from the National Board of Dental Examiners: Provided, That such applicant shall pass a practical examination given by the Board of Dental Examiners: Provided further, That in exercising its discretion to waive theoretical examinations the Board of Dental Examiners shall satisfy itself that the examination given by the National Board of Dental Examiners was as comprehensive as that required in the District of Columbia.

